Demand of Indian Pharma Goods in Russia

5189. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Pharma goods are in great demand in Russia and Indian Pharmaceutical companies do attach great importance to get a market in Russia; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to accelerate the Indian investment in that country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes sir. There is good demand for Indian pharma products in Russia primarily on account of the fact that the Indian pharma products/ substances are qualitatively comparable with those offered by the Western/ Multinational pharma companies and far less expensive. The Indian pharma companies have always been keen to promote pharma exports to Russia as can be seen from the fact that export of drugs, pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals has increased over the years from Rs. 282 crores in 1994-95 to Rs. 397 crores for the period April-December, 1999- 2000. Around 100 Indian companies are operating in the Russian Federation and also more than 700 Indian formulations have been registered.

(b) Government has been encouraging Indian pharmaceutical companies to establish Joint Ventures in Russia and to expand their market share in the Russian market. Government has been taking up with the Government of Russian Federation in the Indo-Russian Working Group on Pharmaceuticals various issues relating to export of pharma goods and Indian investment. The Embassy of India in Moscow has been working towards promoting contacts between the Indian companies and the importers in the Russian Federation. Indian pharmaceutical companies have also been participating in pharmaceutical trade fairs in Russia through ITPO as well as directly.

Patenting of Indian Plants

5190. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Indian plants like zeera, kali mirch, ritha, karela, jamun have been patented in foreign countries like Japan, U.S. and China; and